

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – June 5th, 2011

- Every week, we set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings to look at Bible prophecy
- The reason for this is because the Bible predicts certain events that will take place in the last days before the Lord returns.
- We believe that what's happening in the world today is a fulfillment of those Bible Prophecies.

- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because, as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."

- For today's update, I want to draw your attention to something that you've been hearing about, and will hear even more about as time goes on.
- The first is what's called the "Arab Spring," and the second of which is "The Third Palestinian Intifada" both of which are Middle-East uprisings.
- It's important to understand that this is a prophecy from Jesus Himself telling His disciples what would happen in the last days before the end.

**Matthew 24:6-8 NIV** You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. (7) Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. (8) All these are the beginning of birth pains.

- In concert with the Arab Spring and The Third Palestinian Intifada, we've also been reintroduced to both Nakba Day and today which is Naksa.
- These are two Arabic words for the annual days of commemoration for when the Palestinian's were "allegedly" displaced from their land.
- Yom an-Nakbah in Arabic means "day of catastrophe" referring to May 15th, 1948, and Yom an-Naksa in Arabic means "day of setback."

- Today, June 5th, is Naksa; commemorating the 1967 "Six-Day War" in which God gave Jerusalem, Gaza, and the West Bank back to Israel.
- So, how do the "so called Palestinian's" celebrate these two days of catastrophe and setback? They try to cross, by force, Israel's borders.
- This could very well be the beginning of the fulfillment of a prophecy in Obadiah, in how Israel's enemy's ally together and storm the border.

**Obadiah 1:7-10 NIV** All your allies will force you to the border; your friends will deceive and overpower you; those who eat your bread will set a trap for you, but you will not detect it. (8) "In that day," declares the LORD, "will I not destroy the wise men of Edom, men of understanding in the mountains of Esau? (9) Your warriors, O Teman, will be terrified, and everyone in Esau's mountains will be cut down in the slaughter. (10) Because of the violence against your brother Jacob, you will be covered with shame; you will be destroyed forever.

- I find Syria's role in all of this quite interesting in light of Isaiah's prophecy in 17:1, in which Damascus is brought to a ruinous heap in one day.
- Furthermore, we also have the prophecy that's found in Psalm 83, which to me, seems to be exactly what we see beginning to happen now.
- Psalm 83 is a prophecy put to song by Asaph concerning a plot against Israel, cunningly conspired to destroy Israel and wipe her off the map.

**Psalms 83:1-18 NIV** A song. A psalm of Asaph. O God, do not keep silent; be not quiet, O God, be not still. (2) See how your enemies are astir, how your foes rear their heads. (3) With cunning they conspire against your people; they plot against those you cherish. (4) "Come," they say, "let us destroy them as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more." (5) With one mind they plot together; they form an alliance against you— (6) the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, of Moab and the Hagrites, (7) Gebal, Ammon and Amalek, Philistia, with the people of Tyre. (8) Even Assyria has joined them to lend strength to the descendants of Lot. *Selah* (9) Do to them as you did to Midian, as you did to Sisera and Jabin at the river Kishon, (10) who perished at Endor and became like refuse on the ground. (11) Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb, all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna, (12) who said, "Let us take possession of the pasturelands of God." (13) Make them like tumbleweed, O my God, like chaff before the wind. (14) As fire consumes the forest or a flame sets the mountains ablaze, (15) so pursue them with your tempest and terrify them with your storm. (16) Cover their faces with shame so that men will seek your name, O LORD. (17) May they ever be ashamed and dismayed; may they perish in disgrace. (18) Let them know that you, whose name is the LORD—that you alone are the Most High over all the earth.

- I won't go into a detailed study of this prophecy for a number of reasons not the least of which is that we did it back on February 13th, 2011.
- However, I do wish to put the prophetic puzzle pieces in place as it relates to everything that is now happening in the Middle-East today.
- First, every single one of these Arab people groups, all of whom are Muslim, are in the uprisings and are listed in the Psalms 83 prophecy.

- Secondly, their sole goal in the uprising is to destroy Israel as a nation, wiping her off the map, so the name of Israel is remembered no more.
- Thirdly, and perhaps most profoundly, prophetically, to a nation, virtually all are conspicuously absent from the prophecy in Ezekiel 38-39.
- In other words, and it's vital we understand this, every single one of them either borders Israel, are in Israel, or are close in proximity to Israel.

- The reason it's so important to know this, is because the Psalm 83 prophecy could find it's fulfillment before the rapture of the bride of Christ.
- I'm not saying that it would happen before the rapture, but what I am saying is it could happen before the rapture by virtue of these uprisings.
- I would suggest, that we may in fact be witnessing the fulfillment of Psalm 83, starting with, and in light of, the Arab Spring and Third Intifada.

- I'll take it a step further and suggest the possibility that Psalm 83 may be in concert with the "surrounding peoples" prophecy in Zechariah 12.
- By understanding this, it's more plausible that Psalm 83 in concert with Zechariah 12 and even Isaiah 17 concerning Syria could happen now.
- With all those surrounding people groups removed from the pages of prophecy, you can then place Ezekiel 38-39 on the prophetic calendar.

- I'll bring this update in for a landing by simply saying; "it's time to wake up if you've been sleeping spiritually, because the day is almost here."

**Romans 13:11-12** 11 And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. NIV

**Matthew 24:44** Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. NKJV

**Luke 21:28** When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." NIV